

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

AF-06 SAM-01 SAJ-01 AS-01 /079 W

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R 220806Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7408

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, NL, AO

SUBJECT: LABOR PARTY FAVORS MPLA, BUT FONMIN HOLDING FAST

REF: THE HAGUE 0097

1. SUMMARY: AS EXPECTED, MAJORITY OF LABOR PARTY EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS VOTED IN FAVOR OF GON RECOGNITION OF MPLA GOVERNMENT IN ANGOLA. FONMIN VAN DER STOEL, PRIMIN DEN UYL, AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS SPOKESMAN IN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION CONTINUE TO FAVOR WITHHOLDING RECOGNITION. END SUMMARY

2. EXECUTIVE BOARD OF LABOR PARTY (PVDA), LEADING PARTY IN GOVERNMENT COALITION, ADOPTED RESOLUTION JAN 20 WHICH CALLS ON GON TO

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RECOGNIZE MPLA AS ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT. BOARD ALSO VOTED TO GIVE

10,000 GUILDERS (US\$3,700) TO MPLA FROM PARTY'S INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY FUND AND CONDEMNED ANY FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA.

3. PRIMIN DEN UYL AND FONMIN VAN DER STOEL ATTENDED EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING AND SPOKE OUT IN OPPOSITION TO RESOLUTION, HOLDING TO CURRENT GOVERNMENT LINE OF WITHHOLDING RECOGNITION FROM ANY OF COMPETING MOVEMENTS IN ANGOLA. LABOR PARTY INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY VAN DEN BERGH, LATER TOLD PRESS THAT THERE WERE NO BASIC DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PARTY BOARD AND FONMIN WHO, HE CLAIMED, ALSO FAVORED RECOGNITION OF MPLA, BUT NOT AT THIS TIME. VAN DEN BERGH ALSO QUOTED AS SAYING THAT IT WAS CLEAR THAT LABOR PARTY EXECUTIVE BOARD ACTION PUT PARTY OUT IN FRONT OF OTHER EUROPEAN SOCIALISTS, BUT THAT HE DETECTED SIMILAR SENTIMENT FOR MPLA AT RECENT HELSINGOR MEETING FROM FINNISH, FRENCH, ITALIAN AND PORTUGUESE PARTIES.

4. CONTRARY TO PAST PRACTICE (GUINEA-BISSAU AND PRG IN VIET NAM) LABOR PARTY PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION SEEMS TO BE LINING UP ON SIDE OF FONMIN RATHER THAN PARTY EXECUTIVE BOARD. FOREIGN AFFAIRS SPOKESMAN FOR LABOR PARTY IN LOWER HOUSE TER BEEK (HIMSELF A MEMBER OF PARTY EXECUTIVE) NOTED THAT PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION ALSO PREFERRED MPLA TO OTHER MOVEMENTS, BUT THAT THERE WAS NO UNANIMITY AMONG OAU ON RECOGNITION QUESTION. TER BEEK SAID THAT HE COULD NOT SPEAK FOR PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION, BUT HE SIDED WITH FONMIN.

5. COMMENT: THE QUESTION OF RECOGNITION OF THE MPLA IS, FOR THE MOMENT, NOT AN ISSUE FOR THE GOVERNMENT, BUT RATHER ONE FOR THE LABOR PARTY. (THERE IS VERY LITTLE SUPPORT IN THE NETHERLANDS OUTSIDE THE LABOR PARTY AND ITS LEFT-WING ALLIES FOR A CHANGE OF POSITION.) FONMIN VAN DER STOEL IS NOT UNDER ANY SIGNIFICANT PRESSURE TO CHANGE HIS POSITION AS A RESULT OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD'S ACTION, AND WE THINK IT UNLIKELY THAT ISSUE WILL COME UP AGAIN SOON, SHORT OF A CHANGE IN SITUATION ON THE GROUND IN ANGOLA OR A SHIFT BY THE OAU.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RECOGNITION, LABOR UNIONS, POLITICAL PARTIES, LIBERATION FRONTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976THEHA00329
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760025-0129
From: THE HAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760130/aaaabajp.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 THE HAGUE 97
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 MAR 2004 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <13 MAY 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LABOR PARTY FAVORS MPLA, BUT FONMIN HOLDING FAST
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PDEV, NL, AO, MPLA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006